July 15, 2021

Submitted Electronic Mail and US Post Office

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Many Norco residents are looking forward to participating in your upcoming Communities of Interest (COI) Input Meeting for Riverside/San Bernardino Counties on July 31, 2021, and we commend your outreach to the public. In the meantime, I write on behalf of the Norco City Council, residents and businesses to convey the City’s strong desire to remain intact in one Congressional, Senate, and Assembly District. The entire City has many common characteristics that define us as Community of Interest.

Throughout its history, even long before it was incorporated in 1964, Norco has never simply been a place on a map but a cohesive community, trademarked as "Horsetown USA", cultivating a unique culture and lifestyle—a shared experience treasured by all its residents. The City of Norco is located in Western Riverside County (see attached map) with many shared interests including: large residential property lot sizes to accommodate animal keeping; unique equestrian trails throughout the City for residential and economic use (Ex: social riding, but as functional trails that lead to many business establishments); City-owned water and sewer systems serving the Navy in Norco, the California Rehabilitation Center, and all residents and businesses in the City; active community based organizations such as the Norco Area Chamber of Commerce, Norco Horsemen’s Association, Norco Mounted Posse Women’s Auxiliary, Kiwanis Club of Norco, Norco Horseshow Association, Riverside County Barrel Racers (all of which serve local social and economic functions to the residents and surrounding community); one independent school district serving all residents; and many more. To divide our City into multiple districts at any level would not only render a disservice to the residents of Norco, but also to the elected officials that will ultimately represent our community in the newly created districts.

In additional to the foregoing, the following attributes of Norco necessitate the City remaining whole in a single Congressional, Senate and Assembly District:
Since 1941, the United States Navy has operated a base within the boundaries of the City of Norco. ("Navy in Norco" is proudly displayed at its entrance and Federal debates surrounding its continued operation in Norco necessitates single representation at the Congressional level.)

California Rehabilitation Center (CRC Prison) – is a 98 parcel of property adjacent to the Navy base and is subject to various debates regarding potential closure that will impact the City economically.

In 1929 the Norconian Resort Supreme was opened to the world! This historically protected iconic resort still exists within the prison fences of the CRC, but efforts persist by the City and the Lake Norconian Club Foundation to maintain this precious resource for our community.

George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center- This 85,000 square foot covered arena with permanent seating for 2,100 guests, hosts many rodeos and large horseshows throughout the year, as well as local equestrian events. This event center is the epicenter of Norco’s “Community of Interest” as defined for the purposes of redistricting.

Norco is proud of its elaborate miles of pedestrian and equestrian trial circulation system along residential properties and to nearly every business in Norco.

While we clearly share some regional issues, Norco is very different from most of the municipalities that surround it in the Inland Empire. Through vigilance and local legislation, Norco has maintained its identity as a large-lot, animal-keeping community, offering an equestrian lifestyle that is substantially different than what is imposed by more typical suburban land use development. This lifestyle has fostered a culture that binds its residents, regardless of their racial or ethnic heritage or party affiliation. Respecting Norco’s boundaries as is, is one mandate of your charge, to keep the City together in a single State Assembly, State Senate and U.S. Congressional district will help us protect our communities of interest and aid us in electing representatives that will respect our way of life; and preserve our social, economic and cherished lifestyle.
We applaud your work, which we know is demanding because one of our active residents, Jodie P. Filkins Webber, served on the first California Citizens’ Redistricting Commission in 2010-2020. During the course of your intense research and deliberations, you will find that the City of Norco is not only very unique, but shares many common characteristics within its boundaries. We strongly advocate and would be grateful if you could ensure that the unique City of Norco remains undivided.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bash
Mayor, City of Norco

C: Norco City Council Members